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Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our hope for years to come we worship You. Your Name is great, and we offer You our adoration and praise.

Bless our Senators. Lord, open their eyes so they can discern Your involvement in human affairs. Prepare their hearts and minds for today's challenges, inspiring them to conduct themselves with civility and honor. Keep their motives pure, their words true, and their actions constructive.

Almighty God, we acknowledge that our lives are in Your hands, so please keep our feet from stumbling.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DR. LORNA BREEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROTECTION ACT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 610, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill.

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 4871 (to the House amendment), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 4872 (to amendment No. 4871), to modify the effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 4873, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 4874 (to the instructions (amendment No. 4873) of the motion to refer), to modify the effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 4875 (to amendment No. 4874), to modify the effective date.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING ROBERT J. DOLE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, earlier this morning, it was my honor to

join with President Biden, the Vice President, Leader MCCONNELL, the Speaker, and other congressional leaders in paying a final tribute to our former colleague, Senator Bob Dole of Kansas.

From defending our country in World War II, where he fought the Nazis on the hillsides of Italy, to dedicating his final years advocating with disabled Americans and veterans, Senator Dole redefined and elevated what it means to serve our country. By 21, he had given more of himself than most of us give in a lifetime, and then he kept going for 70 years after that.

Leader Dole, rest in peace. Thank you for all you did to make our country better. And I extend my condolences and prayers to his wife, Senator Elizabeth Dole, their family, and all who mourn the loss of the gentleman from Kansas.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. President, now on the debt ceiling.

Later today, the Senate is going to hold a crucial vote that will enable us to address the debt ceiling on a fast-track basis, avoiding the prospect of a catastrophic, calamitous default on our sovereign debt.

The proposal I worked on with Leader MCCONNELL will allow Democrats to do precisely what we have been seeking to do for months, what I have been coming down to the floor advocating since the fall: provide a simple majority vote to fix the debt ceiling without having to resort to a convoluted, lengthy, and ultimately risky process.

The Nation's debt has been incurred on a bipartisan basis, so I am pleased that this responsible action will be taken today to facilitate a process that avoids a default.

I want to thank Leader MCCONNELL for working with us on this agreement. Our multiple conversations were fruitful, candid, productive.

This is the responsible path forward: no brinksmanship, no default on the debt, no risk of another recession.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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